

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 25, 2002 ("the pending Office Action") has been reviewed and its contents carefully noted. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the thorough review of the pending claims. Claims 13-18, 20-24, 26-27 are currently pending, claims 19, 25 and 28 having been canceled by this Amendment.

In the pending Office Action, claims 13-17, 20-24 and 26-27 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6, 344, 884. Claims 18-19 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 13-15, 18, 21-24, and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the related art shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B of the present application in view of U.S. Patent No. 5, 621,701 to Yamaji et al. ("Yamaji").

With respect to the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 13-17, 20-24 and 26-27, Applicants submit a Terminal Disclaimer herewith.

With respect to the statutory double patenting rejection of claims 18, 19, 25 and 28, Applicants submit that this statutory double patenting rejection is improper, as it rejects claims that depend from claims that are not rejected under statutory type double patenting. Moreover, Applicants believe that such rejection is moot with respect to claims 19 and 28, as these claims have been canceled. Applicants further assert that claim 18 is not commensurate in scope with claim 1 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,344,884 and that claim 25 is not commensurate in scope with claim 9 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,344,884.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is moot because claim 19 has been canceled by this Amendment.

Turning to the rejection of claims 13-15, 18, 21-24, and 27-28 as being unpatentable over the related art shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B of the present application in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,621,701 to Yamaji et al. ("Yamaji"), Applicants believe that this rejection is moot with respect to claim 28 because this claim has been canceled by this Amendment.

The rejection of claims 13-15, 18, 21-24 and 27-28 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 13-15 and 18 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "treating at least part of the first layer (with an organic layer) with plasma containing hydrogen to form an intermediate layer." None of the cited references, including the art shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B and Yamaji, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Applicants note that Yamaji does not teach or suggest an organic layer being treated with plasma containing hydrogen. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 and claims 14-15 and 18, which depend from claim 13, are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 21-24 and 27 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "treating at least a portion of the organic layer with plasma containing hydrogen." None of the cited references, including the art shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B and Yamaji, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Applicants note that Yamaji does not teach or suggest an organic layer being treated with plasma containing hydrogen. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21-24 and 27, which depend from claim 21, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

13. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a pixel element of a liquid crystal display device, comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate;

forming a first layer with an organic material over the substrate;

treating at least part of the first layer with plasma containing hydrogen to form an intermediate layer; and

forming a second layer over the intermediate layer.